

**Edwards: Valley Mills Volunteer Fire Department Receives \$101,080 Homeland Security Grant**

(WASHINGTON, DC) - U.S. Representative Chet Edwards today announced that the Valley Mills Volunteer Fire Department has been selected to receive a \$101,080 firefighter grant from the Department of Homeland Security. The grant, funded under the Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program (AFGP), enables local fire departments and emergency medical services organizations to purchase or receive training, conduct first responder health and safety programs, and buy equipment and response vehicles.

“I am thrilled that the dedicated folks at the Valley Mills Volunteer Fire Department will receive this important funding,” said Edwards. “These funds will help enhance the ability of the Valley Mills Volunteer Fire Department to serve and protect the community, prevent fires, and reduce the number of fire related injuries.”

The Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program is administered by the Department of Homeland Security's Office of State and Local Government Coordination and Preparedness (SLGCP) in cooperation with the U.S. Fire Administration (USFA). The AFGP program assists rural, urban and suburban fire departments throughout the United States by improving effectiveness of firefighting operations, firefighter health and safety programs, and fire prevention programs.

In 2007, Congress appropriated, Edwards supported, and President Bush signed into law, over \$490 million so that fire departments and nonaffiliated emergency medical service organizations throughout the country could carry out the activities of the Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program nationwide.

Edwards serves on the House Homeland Security Appropriations Subcommittee.